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18 September 1973

**INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE  
OFFICE OF BASIC AND GEOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE**

**Proposed Exchange of Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS)  
Photography from the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) for Coverage  
Index Plotting on the CIA Automatic Plotter**

The USGS EROS Project Staff has informally offered to provide CIA with free ERTS photography in exchange for the CIA's assistance in the periodic machine plotting of World photo coverage by ERTS. This relationship initially would entail the preparation by CIA of base maps with the photo frames overlaid and identified. When these base maps are completed, the USGS would supply CIA a magnetic tape every 18 days. OBGI's Cartography Division would machine plot cloud cover and quality symbols within the appropriate photo frame from these tapes. Three hours monthly plotting time is anticipated, but more precise costing cannot be made at this time. While the proposal has yet to be agreed to by OBGI, the Agency would benefit from such an arrangement not only in getting free imagery, but also in acquiring for itself accurate photo indexes for areas of intelligence interest. The USGS does not have a precision plotter, but is planning for one in FY 1975.

The CIA contact employee is [REDACTED] extension 3335.

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